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# JAS CONNECTIONS

Fall 2011

News and Information for Members and Friends  
of the Japan America Society of Southern California



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Fellow Members of JAS:

In this issue, I would like to address two subjects.

As JAS continues its mission to build and enhance the relationship between the people of Japan and the U.S., be reminded that our efforts are extended well beyond the local region. As one of the most prominent members of the National Association of Japan America Societies (NAJAS), based in Washington, D.C., JAS members may enjoy the supporting network of the 37 Japan America societies in North America and 30 America Japan societies in Japan. Furthermore,

with JAS President Doug Erber also serving as an executive board member of NAJAS, our organization rests assured that a collective and unified presence is in place to maximize the results of our work.

In addition to communications throughout the year, the NAJAS annual conference keeps the societies closely engaged with one another and produces a best practice forum. This year, much of the discussion centered around the Japan Relief efforts, for which NAJAS members raised nearly \$22M combined.

In attendance at the NAJAS

conference were the Honorable Rust Deming, Immediate Past U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and the Honorable Ichiro Fujisaki, Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. They highly praised the efforts of Japan America societies for their unprecedented work to raise relief and recovery funds. It was clear to them that there is no larger network of organizations dedicated solely to strengthening of the bi-lateral relationship between the U.S. and another country.



Nancy Woo Hiromoto

On a separate note, the various committees of JAS have been working hard over the past several months to come up with new ways to better serve our membership. I applaud the efforts of the individuals who have taken a leadership role within these committees. Their involvement and commitment is a key component in what makes JAS a great organization and the vital connection to have in Southern California. I would like to especially thank Judy Johnson (GolinHarris) as chair of communications for making this fine newsletter possible as an important communication piece to our members.

A list of all the committees can be found on the last page of this newsletter. Members are welcome to join in on any meeting, whether

in person, by phone or e-mail as the board members of JAS value your ideas and input. Some committees that may be of interest include:

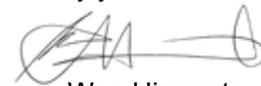
- **The Anniversary Dinner** has been slated for June 2012. In keeping with the JAS tradition, Dinner Co-Chairs Tammie Kanda (Toyota) and Terry Hara (LAPD) have helped to arrange a fun and unique venue that is sure to please.
- **The Kite Festival**, a free family event, gains in attendance year after year each October. With an event this size, the planning and coordination leading up to the big day can never be enough. Join Kite Chair Graciela Meibar (Mattel) and her committee to offer your ideas on how we can make this one Sunday out of the year even more spectacular!
- **The Program Co-Chairs**, Brian

Peck (USC Gould School of Law) and Yu Tanabe (Nikkei America), keep our flow of programs moving throughout the entire year. They would like to hear if there is a topic of particular interest to our members.

- **The Membership Committee**, with Co-Chairs Michael Feyder (Quest International) and Perry Moreth (Wells Fargo), has worked tremendously hard this year in establishing additional benefits for members.

Please contact the office if you are interested in helping with any of these efforts.

Sincerely yours,



Nancy Woo Hiromoto  
Chair, JAS



## REPORT FROM TOHOKU

*By Douglas Erber, President, Japan America Society of Southern California*

Dear members and friends of the Japan America Society of Southern California,

On behalf of our board of directors and board of governors, I want to thank you for your heartfelt and generous response to Japan's greatest natural disaster, the Great Japan East Earthquake and resulting tsunami waves and radiation crisis. I have recently returned from a two-week trip to Japan, where I spent five days in some of the devastated cities

and villages of Iwate prefecture, as well as a visit to Fukushima prefecture. Seeing the devastated areas and speaking with survivors was a life-changing experience and will remain in my deepest thoughts for the rest of my life.

There were three important purposes for the trip. The first was to meet with the Japanese non-profit disaster relief and recovery organizations that received funds from our 2011 Japan Relief Fund. The Society's board of directors

has strictly followed the principles and guidelines of international charity outlined by the IRS and the U.S. Treasury. As an additional monitoring effort, we wanted to observe the performance of the organizations' charitable activities in Japan to ensure compliance with expenditure responsibility rules under the tax law. I am pleased to report the three organizations that each received a \$250,000 tranche from the 2011 Japan Relief Fund provided first-hand



*“Seeing the devastated areas and speaking with survivors was a life-changing experience and will remain in my deepest thoughts for the rest of my life.”*

*Facing page photo caption provided by AP/Kyodo News: This combination image, the initial destruction and progress of cleanup after the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami is seen in Otsuchicho, Iwate prefecture, northern Japan. The top photo, taken March 14, 2011, shows buildings standing amid the debris. The middle photo, taken June 3, 2011, and the bottom photo, taken Sept. 7, show the cleanup and demolition are still in progress. AP/Kyodo News*

*This page, top: City of Ofunato.*

*Middle left: Temporary housing in an isolated area of Iwate prefecture.*

*Middle right: The tiny (Population: 100) fishing village of Koishi Hama, Iwate prefecture, lost all but four of its 60 family-owned fishing boats. To survive economically, the village is using its remaining boats to “farm” scallops by using nets that will be anchored to these large, newly created blocks of cement.*

*Bottom: Ofunato’s Akazaki Elementary School’s playground is now claimed by a massive pile of wood debris.*

reports and updates on how our funds have been used for both immediate relief and long-term recovery in the devastated areas.

These organizations are the [Japanese Red Cross Society](#), [Save the Children – Japan](#) and [Seikeijuku Tohoku Earthquake Relief Fund](#). I also met with leaders of the Japanese non-profit organization, [Living Dreams Japan](#), which will administer the Japan America Society’s “adoption” of Fukushima Aiiuken, a children’s home (orphanage) in Fukushima

prefecture. (Please see the related article on Fukushima Aiiuken.)

The second purpose of the trip was a fact-finding visit to the devastated areas of Tohoku to gather information about rebuilding projects that would best serve an entire community. This information, provided first-hand by government officials, business leaders and individuals affected by the disasters, will benefit our board of directors’ decision-making process when considering the best possible use(s) for the remainder

of the 2011 Japan Relief Fund.

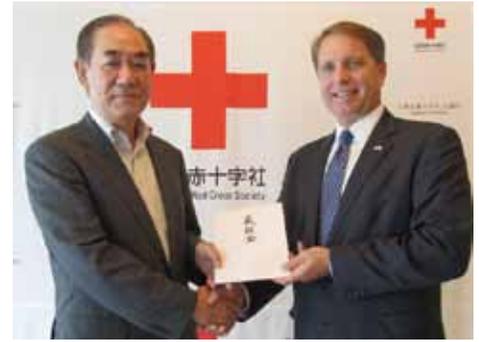
The third purpose of the trip was to meet with leaders of additional Japanese non-profit organizations for consideration to partner with when an appropriate rebuilding project is identified. Related to all three purposes of the trip, I also was able to meet with important contacts of the Japan America Society, including: U.S. Ambassador John V. Roos; Ambassador Shotaro Yachi and Director-General Junichi Ihara, both past consul generals of Japan in Los Angeles; Samuel Kidder,



Left to right: Tsuneo Ibuka, director of administration, Seikeijyuku (Tohoku Earthquake Relief Fund); Douglas Erber, and; Yoshihiro Murai, governor, Miyagi Prefecture. This meeting was made possible by JASSC Co-Vice Chairman Kappei Morishita.



Hironobu Shibuya, chairman, Save the Children Japan.



Yoshiharu Otsuka, vice president, Japan Red Cross Society.

## REPORT FROM TOHOKU

executive director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan; Ambassador Yoshio Okawara and Takashi Watanabe, chairman and executive director, respectively, of The America–Japan Society, and; several JAS honorary officers.

On all accounts, the trip was very successful. I would like to express my deep appreciation to Delta Air Lines for providing a gratis airline ticket, and to the Imperial Hotel Tokyo for providing a complimentary room during my stay for meetings in Tokyo. Furthermore, I am deeply grateful to Masako Unoura Tanaka, a dear friend and Los Angeles resident who was visiting her elderly father in the city of Ofunato, Iwate prefecture, when the earthquake struck. Masako just barely survived the tsunami and has since been diligently working to help with the recovery and rebuilding of Iwate prefecture. Masako’s father also survived and I had the honor of staying at his home during my fact-finding visit to Ofunato and surrounding cities and fishing villages. I am indebted to Masako, who, as an official “ambassador of Iwate Prefecture,” arranged important meetings with Iwate’s Governor Takuya Tasso and Deputy Governor Yoshiharu Ueno,

the current and immediate past mayors of Ofunato, the leaders of the Ofunato Chamber of Commerce, and Satoshi Kitahama, Asia director for the U.S. non-profit, All Hands Volunteers, that continues to work to help clean up and assist the citizens of Ofunato and surrounding areas.



Encouraging messages of “Ganbere” (Never give up!) and “Ganbaroo!” (Let’s not give up!) can be seen all across Japan.

Two weeks prior to my trip, the Japanese media distributed a large number of combination photos showing three scenes (shown on previous page): the first scene was during and/or just after the tsunami

hit, the next photo was the same scene three months later and, finally, a photo of how the scene looked at six months. The international media published these photos that show debris cleaned up and damaged roads repaired. However, after visiting the devastated areas, it is clear that such photos give a false impression that recovery and rebuilding is well underway.

Seeing the devastated areas in person, even six months after the disaster, gave me an entirely different perspective. Full recovery will take up to a decade. The nuclear radiation crisis in Fukushima will take many decades. While tremendous progress has been made in the clean-up effort, only 60% to 70% of the debris has been cleared and very little has been disposed. Two-story high fields of debris, separated into massive piles of concrete, metal, wood and plastics, cover what little open space remains. Destroyed automobiles and large appliances also wait to be cleared. Japanese media report there are more than 25 million tons of debris to be cleaned up. It is hoped to have all debris cleared by next March and completely disposed of by March 2014.

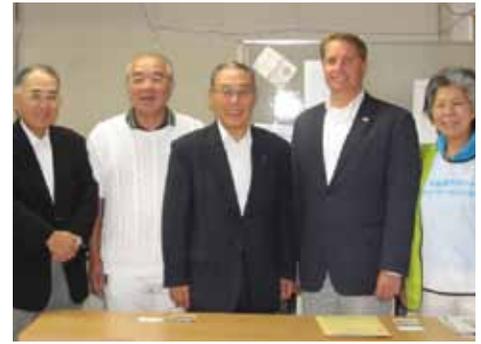
The scant reconstruction that has



Masako Unoura Tanaka and Douglas Erber receive a rebuilding plan from Kimiaki Toda, mayor, city of Ofunato. One-third of Ofunato, including most of the downtown business district, fishing ports and manufacturing, were lost to the tsunami.



Douglas Erber and Masako Unoura Tanaka meet with Satoshi Kitahama, Asia director, All Hands Volunteers.



Meeting with Ofunato Chamber of Commerce, left to right: Naokazu Ueno, executive director; Kosei Mizuno, vice chairman; Toshiaki Saito, chairman, Douglas Erber, and; Masako Unoura Tanaka.

begun is the replacing of walls on the few structures that had a frame strong enough to withstand the tsunami. That said, the government has done a commendable job of building temporary housing, commonly two-room units that provide privacy and are well equipped. However, the temporary housing is often located in isolated areas away from shops, medical facilities or food stores. Those who have been directed to leave the evacuation centers and move into the temporary housing must forgo free meals and are expected to pay for utilities and services, a tough obligation for victims who lost their place of employment due to the tsunami. Furthermore, most of the temporary housing will be available only for a two-year period, which will create a new challenge to assist victims' transition to more permanent resettlement.

While there are physical signs of progress, one of the large concerns is the psychological impact on the victims who have lost loved ones, friends, homes, important heirlooms and irreplaceable burial sites of their ancestors. Moreover, the disruption to children's lives has both immediate and long-term impact on their wellbeing. For

children relocated or those forced to stay indoors due to the radiation threat, being "locked" inside and not being able to play or go outside has added to their stress. Most open spaces, including parks, playgrounds and school yards, have



Tree of Hope — the single surviving tree of a forest of over 7,000 pine trees swept away by the tsunami in the city of Rikuzen Takata.

been claimed by the cleared piles of debris or temporary housing, thus severely limiting the places to have fun and "just be a kid." Families living near the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant have an added level of anxiety due to worries about their health and

the health of their children, both born and unborn. It is not widely reported, but the suicide rate in the affected areas of Tohoku has been rising each month since the earthquake. These psychological affects and how to address them are being examined by local and national governments, as well as the many non-profit organizations operating in the devastated areas.

Still, with a multitude of challenges facing them and with so much that needs to be done, I was amazed by the fortitude and resilience of the Japanese I met in the affected areas. There is a very strong willingness not just to rebuild, but to rebuild to make the region even better. The national government has just announced its supplemental budget that includes an unprecedented second increase in recovery funds that will help Tohoku's prefectural and local governments complete long-term planning to begin rebuilding a new Tohoku, one that will attract both business and tourism to this exceptionally beautiful and tranquil region of Japan.

During my trip, I received repeated words of gratitude. Common expressions included, "Please thank Americans for their support and friendship," "Thank you for



Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman foursome: Reed Waddell, Kathy Nelson, Michael Faber, and Edward Perron.



For the first time in JAS' history, three cars as well as airline tickets were featured as Hole-in-One prizes. Thanks to our sponsors, Honda, Japan Airlines, Mazda, and Toyota, the four special holes helped to keep the players excited and motivated throughout the course.



2011 JAS Tennis Open women's champions: Chisato Takahashi and Wakako Semba with ABC7's Rob Fukuzaki.

## 43<sup>RD</sup> JAPAN AMERICA GOLF CLASSIC & TENNIS OPEN

### DELIVERING FUNDS & FUN

On a clear and gorgeous September 12th, Japan America Society members and supporters participated in our 43rd Japan America Golf Classic & Tennis Open, held concurrently, at La Cañada Flintridge Country Club, nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. "These two events are important fundraisers for the Society, and we were pleased that the Tennis Open was filled and the Golf Classic was 'oversold' with the largest number of players in nearly a decade," said Michael Feyder, chair of the Golf Classic & Tennis Open committee. Feyder adds, "We truly appreciate everyone who came out to play, as well as our sponsors, especially our presenting sponsor, the international law firm of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP."

Adding to the energy and fun was sports anchor for ABC7 Eyewitness News, Rob Fukuzaki, who served as the events' awards dinner emcee. "It is clear everyone had a great time, and I am pleased to help support the Japan America Society!" Fukuzaki said.

Fukuzaki helped present The Japan America Cup, a perpetual award that has been presented since 1997 to recognize corporations and

individuals participating in the Japan America Golf Classic that exemplify sportsmanship, corporate integrity and contributions to the U.S.–Japan relationship. The Golf & Tennis committee was pleased to announce this year's honoree, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited!

The Tennis Champions Trophy, which was donated to the Society seven years ago by R.Thomas Decker, JAS chairman emeritus, is awarded each year to the men's and women's doubles champions. The men's winners were Aris Housepian, a past Davis Cup player, and his tennis partner, Wilson Fitzgerald, who is 82 years young and America's #1 ranked player in his age group! Congratulations to the woman's division winners, Chisato Takahashi and Wakako Semba.

One final perpetual award, The Foreign Ministers Cup, a solid sterling silver golf trophy that was donated to the Society in 1968 by then Foreign Minister Takeo Miki, was presented to ladies and men's Callaway Winners, Anne MacNeil and Ed Zeier.

We thank all our generous sponsors and participants, as well as our dedicated volunteers for making this year's Golf Classic & Tennis Open a resounding success. ■

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  - InterContinental Los Angeles Century City
  - Korean Air
  - Mitsubishi Electric & Electronics USA, Inc.
  - Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
  - Valley View Casino & Hotel

For a full list of our generous sponsors and prize donors, please visit: [JAS-SoCal.org](http://JAS-SoCal.org).



## ANNUAL KITE FESTIVAL

### JAS SALUTES MATTEL FOR ITS SPONSORSHIP OF ANNUAL JAPAN AMERICA KITE FESTIVAL®

More than 12,000 spectators from around Southern California came out to see the colorful kites at this year's annual Japan America Kite Festival® at Seal Beach on Oct. 9. According to Graciela Meibar, vice president of global diversity, Mattel, and chair of the Japan America Kite Festival® committee, she has witnessed a significant increase in attendance since her leadership of the event began in 2010. Last year's attendance began the climb from 10,000 to 12,000, an indication that the festival extends well beyond the local community of Seal Beach.

"Graciela has helped to bring about broader exposure to the diversity and cultural aspect of this event. With Mattel's support and LA Best's coordination, JAS has been able to arrange for an additional 250 children to join the Sunday festival to experience the sights and sounds of Japan and to be a part of the spectacular kites in the sky," said Nancy Woo Hiromoto, chair of JAS.

Another great change is the participation of one of Mattel's newly formed internal resource groups. For a second year, numerous members of MADE (Mattel Asian Diversity Exchange) joined the other volunteers at the festival to ensure a well-managed event.

"What a wonderful event! It was a very well organized and inspiring day," said Marie Wong, a MADE member. "Kudos to you and your organization for the great work you all produced." MADE is a group of Asian and non-Asian employees of Mattel, Inc., who are interested in expanding their network and gaining exposure to Asian cultures, community and customs; and discussing relevant Asian issues.

It is with the perfect harmony of JAS and Mattel that the complimentary to all, family-oriented and culturally rich Japan America Kite Festival® will remain a staple in Southern California for all who choose to enjoy this fun Sunday afternoon each year. ■



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### SABRINA HIGDON

Sabrina Higdon serves on the board of governors for the Japan America Society of Southern California. Her relationship with the Society began three years ago when she met Doug Erber and Kay Amano at a meeting to discuss a Japan Heritage Day at Angel Stadium in Anaheim, Calif. She has remained involved in the Society since then because it provides opportunity to contact the corporate members of the Society from a business perspective and it has reestablished the connection with her education and past experience with the Japanese culture.

Sabrina attended the University of Utah, where she studied international politics and the Japanese language. She spent a semester in Kobe for intensive language and cultural studies then returned to Japan to work in the Japan & Exchange Teaching program. She was living in Kobe during the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995. When she returned from Japan, she began a career in the manufacturing industry in roles of marketing, then sales for metalworking and machine



tool manufacturers. While this doesn't sound very exciting, it was fascinating to be part of the process that creates airplanes, cars, golf clubs, cell phones, laptops and just about anything one can imagine. Somehow that led to a career in sports and entertainment. Eight

years ago, Sabrina moved to a role in sponsorship sales for the Los Angeles Angels baseball organization.

Today, Sabrina works for AEG Global Partnerships, a division of AEG, the largest sports and entertainment company

in the world. Her role includes selling sponsorships and advertising for the AEG Los Angeles-based properties, teams and events, which include the LA Kings, LA Galaxy, The Home Depot Center, STAPLES Center, L.A. LIVE, The GRAMMY Museum, Citizens Business Bank Arena, Amgen Tour of California, LA Film Festival, KIIS-FM's Jingle Ball, Nike 3on3 Basketball Tournament, and other AEG affiliated properties and events.

### About AEG

AEG, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Anschutz Company, owns or is affiliated with a collection of companies including more than

120 facilities, such as STAPLES Center (Los Angeles, CA), Best Buy Theater (Times Square, New York), Sprint Center, (Kansas City), Rose Garden Arena (Portland, OR), Target Center (Minneapolis, MN), Mercedes Benz Arena (Shanghai, China), MasterCard Arena (Beijing, China), O2 World Hamburg, Allphones Arena (Sydney, Australia), The Globe arena (Stockholm, Sweden), O2 World arena (Berlin, Germany) and The O2 arena and entertainment district (London, England); sports franchises including the Los Angeles Kings (NHL) and two MLS franchises in addition to overseeing privately held management shares of the Los Angeles Lakers (NBA). AEG has created L.A. LIVE, a 4 million square-foot / \$2.5 billion downtown Los Angeles sports & entertainment district featuring Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE and Club Nokia, a 54-story, 1001-room convention "headquarters" destination (featuring The Ritz-Carlton, Los Angeles and JW Marriott Los Angeles at L.A. LIVE hotels and 224 luxury condominiums – The Ritz-Carlton Residences at L.A. LIVE – all in a single tower), the Regal Cinemas L.A. LIVE Stadium 14, "broadcast" facilities for ESPN, along with entertainment, restaurant and office space and developed The Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif., designated as an "Official U.S.

*[Continued on page 10]*

## JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY “ADOPTS” A CHILDREN’S HOME IN FUKUSHIMA, JAPAN

On Sept. 20, 2011, the JASSC board of directors approved a \$30,000 tranche from the 2011 Japan Relief Fund to “adopt” Fukushima Aikuen, a children’s home (orphanage) in Fukushima, Japan. It is home to 91 children, ages two to 18, all of whom are affected daily by the nuclear radiation crisis. The funds will support educational programs for the children and will be delivered through *Smiles & Dreams: Tohoku*

### *Kids Support Project*

that is managed by *Living Dreams Japan*, a recognized Japanese NPO that supports children’s homes in Japan.

“One of my best experiences during my recent trip to Tohoku was an afternoon spent visiting Fukushima Aikuen,” says Doug Erber, president of the Japan America Society. Erber adds, “The children and staff there were extremely appreciative of our support and look forward to developing a longer-term relationship

with our members.” Because of the radiation released from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, as well as the ongoing threat of continued contamination, Fukushima Aikuen’s children under five years are allowed outside for only 10 minutes per day, and children ages six to 18 are only allowed out two hours per day.

Fukushima Aikuen children’s home was founded in 1893 by

Iwako Uryuu (aka Iwa Uryuu), who is known for her selfless work on behalf of the orphaned, the poor and the injured. In recognition of her work, in 1896, Uryuu became the first woman to receive the Medal with Blue Ribbon (藍綬褒章) from the Japanese government. There are several statues of Uryuu in Japan, including one in Senso-ji Temple in Asakusa, Tokyo. Fukushima Aikuen consists of 11,000 square feet of buildings on nearly two acres of land. As a model children’s home, Fukushima Aikuen was visited by the emperor of Japan in 1952.

By “adopting” Fukushima Aikuen, and working closely with Living Dreams Japan, JAS members will have opportunities to visit the home, as well as help support the children with correspondence and small gifts or donations. Information on how you can help will be announced and posted on the JAS website soon. ■



In early October, JAS President Doug Erber delivered a “Ganbare Fukushima Aikuen” banner signed by members of the JAS Board. Pictured here are the children’s home executive director, Hisao Saito (far left); and the home’s preschool-aged children and their teacher. Please note, in keeping with the need for confidentiality, the children’s faces have been disguised.

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN AMERICAN PROFESSIONALS BESTOWS HONORS

The Japan America Society of Southern California congratulates Toyota and JAS Co-Vice Chair Terry Hara on their recent awards from the National Association of Asian American Professionals. Toyota, one of the key supporters of JAS and one of the world’s largest car manufacturers, was honored for corporate leadership. LAPD Deputy Chief Terry Hara received the honor of being recognized as one of the Asian American community’s finest for his volunteer work and community leadership. ■

## WORDS OF PRAISE

“I want to thank all of you who are actively participating with the Japan America Society of Southern California (and) are promoting the US-Japan relationship; I salute JASSC for all it has done.”

— Norman Y. Mineta, 14th United States Secretary of Transportation

“The core foundational elements of our relationship – the education, cultural, and business ties between our two countries – are critically important to nurture on an ongoing basis, and the people associated with the Japan America Society of Southern California are those who make that happen. I want to express my appreciation for all the Society does in these important times.”

— John V. Roos, United States Ambassador to Japan

## CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETIES TO RECEIVE 2011 FALL IMPERIAL DECORATION

Dr. William R. Farrell, chairman of the National Association of Japan-America Societies, is one of five Americans who will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, in recognition of his significant contributions to the promotion of friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.



For more than 40 years, Dr. Farrell has dedicated himself to deepening

Japan-U.S. relations in a variety of roles: career military officer, college professor, business leader and, most recently, a pivotal figure in grass-roots activities.

Since 2003, Dr. Farrell has been chairman of the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS). With 37 members across North America, NAJAS is the only national non-profit network dedicated to public education about Japan. Focusing on grass-roots

relationships, he has taken the initiative to promote educational, cultural and business programs about Japan and Japan-U.S. relations. Additionally, he has been a member of the board of the Japan America Society of Rhode Island for more than 20 years.

The Japan America Society of Southern California joins fellow members of NAJAS, who have benefited so much from Dr. Farrell's dedication and service, to congratulate him on his Imperial Decoration. ■

## PROGRAM SOLICITS CORPORATE MEMBER EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

In our continuing effort to expand the Japan America Society's reach and visibility within our corporate membership employee base, in Sept., the membership committee successfully launched a new program, "JAS DAY," at Mitsubishi Electric & Electronics, USA (MEA). The purpose of this program is to introduce JAS to our corporate members' associate-level employees and invite them to participate in

our programs and events. At the inaugural JAS DAY, some 40 MEA employees were given a brief history of JAS, its relationship with MEA, an overview of the JAS programs to date, and a presentation highlighting our regular and annual events, including family events such as the Japan America Kite Festival® and the Whale Watch Cruise and Fishing Excursion. This was followed by a lively and informative

Q&A session. MEA employees who attended will now receive program and event announcements via the company's internal communications. JAS corporate members who are interested in hosting a lunchtime "JAS DAY" for their associates at their offices are encouraged to contact Kay Amano, programs director, at 213-627-6217, ext. 207, for more information and to schedule a date. ■

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*Continued from page 8*

Olympic Training Site" by the United States Olympic Committee that includes major facilities for soccer, tennis, track & field, cycling and other sports. AEG Sports owns and operates a variety of events and tours, and AEG Live is the world's second largest live entertainment, concert promotion and touring companies. The organization also

is developing additional arenas in China and arenas in Stockholm and Las Vegas, in addition to Farmers Field in downtown Los Angeles. In 2010, AEG launched its AEG 1EARTH environmental program with the announcement of 2020 environmental goals and the release of the industry's first sustainability report. The ground-breaking report

contains metrics collected on resources consumed and wastes generated at 20 facilities from AEG's global network of venues. The report also highlights success stories, such as the 3,000-plus solar panels on the roof of STAPLES Center and Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE. For additional information, visit [aegworldwide.com](http://aegworldwide.com). ■

# TOHOKU REPORT

Continued from page 5

helping Tohoku,” and, “Please come back!” The Japanese are grateful for “Operation Tomodachi,” in which the U.S. Seventh Fleet assisted the Japanese Self Defense Forces to administer immediate disaster relief. They are grateful for the extraordinary role of non-profit organizations and their volunteers operating in fields previously led by government agencies. They commend the Japan America Society of Southern California for our quick response, as well as the \$22 million in relief and recovery funds raised by the all the Japan America societies within the National Association of Japan-America Societies’ network. Furthermore, they thank the world for its heartfelt and unprecedented outpouring of support for Japan.

Back home now, I harbor a new understanding and perspective on how Japan’s triple disasters have changed everything on so many

different levels, and I am even more thankful now for the many things we often take for granted. I look forward to visiting Tohoku again, and I encourage everyone to continue to support Japan as it works to overcome the many challenges of recovering and rebuilding after one of its worst disasters in history.

### Special thanks

Delta Air Lines, recent winner of the prestigious Business Travel News Annual Airline Survey, serves more than 160 million customers each year. With its unsurpassed global network, Delta and the Delta Connection® carriers offer service to more than 350 destinations in nearly 70 countries on six continents, including daily, non-stop flights from Los Angeles to Tokyo’s Haneda and Narita international airports, as well as service to

Nagoya Centrair and Osaka Kansai international airports. Delta Air Lines has been a strong supporter of JAS for the past two decades.

The Imperial Hotel Tokyo is a legendary landmark that has welcomed royalty, heads of state, celebrities and international business leaders for over 120 years. It offers discreet, highly personalized services, restrained elegance, award-winning cuisine and refined and impeccable Japanese hospitality. The Imperial Hotel Tokyo and Imperial Hotel Osaka generously offer special rates to members of JASs within the NAJAS network. Special rates are subject to availability; please contact the JAS office



for more information and initial reservation requests. ■

## 2011 OFFICERS

### Chairman

Nancy Woo Hiromoto  
Vice President, N. F. Stroth & Associates

### Co-Vice Chair/Chairman Elect

Terry S. Hara  
Deputy Chief, Personnel and Training Bureau  
Los Angeles Police Department

### Co-Vice Chairman

Kappei Morishita  
General Manager, Blu-ray Standard Group,  
Panasonic Hollywood Laboratory  
Panasonic R&D Corporation of America

### Corporate Secretary

Joseph C. Portillo  
Managing Director & Treasurer, Fiduciary Trust  
Company International



### Counsel

Norman A. Futami, Partner  
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP

### President

Douglas G. Erber  
President, Japan America Society of  
Southern California

### Treasurer

Glen I. Hamakawa  
Partner, Ernst & Young LLP

## JAS COMMITTEES

We invite members to become more involved with JAS by joining one of our standing committees. Service on a committee is both enjoyable and provides additional relationship building opportunities. Please contact JAS Membership Coordinator Minami Furuya at [furuya@jas-socal.org](mailto:furuya@jas-socal.org) to learn more about serving on one of the following JAS committees:

- Anniversary Dinner & Gala
- Communications
- Golf Classic & Tennis Open
- Japan America Kite Festival®
- Membership
- Programs

## JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Judy Johnson, GolinHarris -- Chair  
Sabrina Higdon, AEG Global Partnerships  
Emile Mack, Los Angeles Fire Department  
Designer – Wendy Schoggins, GolinHarris (pro bono)

Randy Higa, Kirin Brewery of America LLC  
Joel Littleford, Deloitte Tax LLP